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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 21 September 1948

SUBJECT Forceful Action by SED in Western Sectors of Berlin Held Unlikely

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO

This document is hereby registered
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order of 16 October 1975 by
Director of Central Intelligence
Archives of the United States
Next Review Date: 2008

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

41601
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

1. Rumors about a possible SED attempt to capture by force the Berlin city administration in the western sectors are discounted by informed observers. Agitation is, however, to be increased in the western sectors to create disaffection and disorder. At the proper time an "Ost Magistrat" will be set up in response to "popular demand" as evidenced by mass demonstrations, and the SMA will be asked to assist more energetically the people in the western sectors.
2. Among measures to implement the above is the reorganization and revitalizing of the "10-men groups" in the western sectors to fit them for positive, and possibly illegal, action. SED Landesverband Berlin has also ordered the immediate formation of control commissions consisting of three to nine men to check on the activities of all intermediate party headquarters down to the house block level.
3. Most functionaries on western sector Kreis levels believe the above measures will be difficult to implement. They will also be cool toward other ambitious plans which may be germinated at Landesverband headquarters. A unique condition of lethargy exists now in most SED groups in the western sectors, and even old and dependable Communists are refusing even small assignments. Twice recently, source heard veteran Party members make forbidden reference to the "blockade" without censure from comrades.
4. If the SED is unsuccessful in postponing the November 1948 elections, election lists giving the mass organizations (such as FDGB, VVN, etc.) independent representation will be submitted in the eastern sector. **Comment:** With reference to [redacted] we now believe the possibility of the SED's attempting the capture of the western sectors by force unlikely, partly because of the extensive publicity given to such plans in the German and foreign press. The apathy of the SED membership has been confirmed [redacted]

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Document No. 9
NO CHANGE in Class
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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C
DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
Auth: DDA REG, 77/1783
Date: 3 May 77 By: [redacted]